

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 WELLIN 00201 130522Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-12 OMB-01 DOE-11 SOE-02 DLOS-09 OES-07 EUR-12
/109 W

-----003472 130530Z /14

O 130426Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4733
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 00201

FOR: IPR IPS IBS, CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SUBMARINES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN WELLINGTON'S EVENING POST JANUARY 11. THE SAME OR SIMILAR STORIES DRAWN FROM N.Z. PRESS ASSOCIATION, APPEARED IN OTHER NEW ZEALAND PAPERS.
2. "AUCKLAND, TODAY (PA) - THE UNITED STATES MAY BE CONSIDERING OPERATING NUCLEAR-ARMED TRIDENT SUBMARINES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, ACCORDING TO THE OSLO-BASED INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE.
3. "THE INSTITUTE, GENERALLY REGARDED AS A REPUTABLE INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY, HAS TOLD THE AUCKLAND PEACE SQUADRON THAT THIS MAY BE THE AIM OF THE UPSURGE IN AMERICAN NAVAL ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC OVER THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS OR SO.
4. "THE LONG TERM GOAL OF THIS ACTIVITY SEEMS TO

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 WELLIN 00201 130522Z

BE DIRECTED TOWARDS RETAINING AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND AS MILITARY ALLIES,' MR NILS PETTER GLEDITSCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE, SAYS IN A LETTER TO THE REV. DR. G.ARMSTRONG, OF THE PEACE SQUADRON.

5. "PERHAPS MORE PARTICULARLY, MR. GLEDITSCH SAID, ;"THE INCREASED NAVAL ACTIVITY MAY BE DIRECTED TOWARDS "ENSURING

FAVOURABLE ATTITUDES IN THE FUTURE TOWARDS DEPLOYMENT
OF TRIDENT SUBMARINES IN THE PACIFIC."

6. "THE TRIDENT SYSTEM MAY WELL REQUIRE SOME SORT OF
SHORE INSTALLATION IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC," MR. GLEDITSCH
SAYS. THIS MIGHT BE EITHER FOR COMMAND OR CONTROL
FACILITIES, OR PERHAPS ACCESS TO PORTS FOR NUCLEAR VESSELS
SUPPORTING TRIDENT SUBMARINES.

7. THE RANGE OF THE TRIDENT MISSILE, HE SAYS, IS SUCH
THAT A SUBMARINE COULD CRUISE ALMOST AS FAR SOUTH AS NEW
ZEALAND AND STILL BE CAPABLE OF LANDING ITS MISSILES ON
SOVIET TARGETS.

8. AT SUCH DISTANCES, THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ARMED
SERVICES HAD BEEN TOLD IN 1975: "THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT
NORMALLY ON A ROUTINE BASIS HAVE THE FORCES OR THE
CAPABILITIES FOR SUSTAINED ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE."

9. "MR GLEDITSCH SAYS THAT THE INSTITUTE HAS NO
SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE NUMBERS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN
THE SOUTH PACIFIC. IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT
8000 TO 12,000 AMERICAN NUCLEAR WARHEADS ARE DEPLOYED
IN THE PACIFIC, ALL IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE EXCEPT
FOR THE OCCASIONAL SHIPS GOING SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 WELLIN 00201 130522Z

10. "NO FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE SOVIET UNION,
HE SAYS, BUT PRESUMABLY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE ABOARD SOME
VESSELS SAILING OUT OF VLADIVOSTOK, INCLUDING MISSILE
SUBMARINES ON STATION OFF THE WEST COAST OF NORTH
AMERICA.

11. "EXPANSION OF SOVIET FISHING ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTH
PACIFIC MAY WELL BE CAUSE FOR ALARM ON SUCH GROUNDS AS
OVER-EXPLOITATION OF MARINE RESOURCES, HE SUGGESTS,
ADDING: "THERE IS SCANT EVIDENCE THAT SOVIET FISHING
ACTIVITIES ARE INEVITABLE A PRELUDE TO SOVIET MILITARY
ACTIVITIES." DONAHUE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, SUBMARINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WELLIN00201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780019-0985
Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780163/aaaacbpn.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1da963e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3775177
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR SUBMARINES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC
TAGS: EWWT, SOPN, MMOL, US, NZ
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1da963e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014